

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in this application.

Claims 11-21 stand withdrawn as non-elected responsive to a restriction requirement and are hereby cancelled without prejudice for presentation in a divisional application.

Claims 1-6 are rejected.

Claims 7-10 are objected to.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a).

Claims 1 and 6 are amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-10 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Informalities

Claim 6 has been amended to improve form and style by replacing "which supplies" with "to supply." The substance and meaning of claim 6 is not changed by this amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior (AAPA). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a dicing tape attaching unit constructed and configured to attach a pre-cut dicing tape AND a general dicing tape to the back side of the wafer after grinding by the wafer grinder. In other words, both a general dicing tape and a pre-cut dicing tape can be attached by the dicing tape attaching unit.

In contrast, AAPA clearly points out on page 3, lines 30-31 that a pre-cut dicing tape is not attached; "However, the in-line system 10 of FIG. 1 does not attach the pre-cut dicing tape shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 to the wafer." Further, page 2, lines 24-25 of the AAPA state that the dicing tape attaching unit 18 attaches ONLY a general dicing tape, not a pre-cut dicing tape. In other words, a device configured to attach BOTH a general dicing tape AND

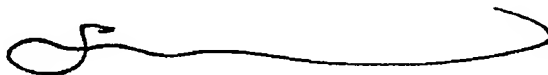
a pre-cut dicing tape is not disclosed or taught anywhere in the AAPA. The AAPA merely states what is lacking. Embodiments of the invention describe improvements over the prior art by including a SINGLE unit that can attach BOTH a general dicing tape AND a pre-cut dicing tape. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by the AAPA and applicants thus request withdrawal of the rejections for this claim as well as its dependent claims 2-10.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

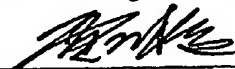
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